responsibility of planning, investigation, funding alongwith priority, execution, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects, including irrigation and flood control primarily rests with the concerned State governments themselves.

(c) The Project envisages to provide annual irrigation to an area of 436.8 thousand hectare spread over East Godavari, Vishakhapatnam, Krishna and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Fund allocated for erosion of Ganga-Padma river basin

3381. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether government are aware of heavy erosion of Ganga-Padma river basin;

(b) whether government recognise the problem as national calamity;

(c) the amount Government of West Bengal has demanded to deal with the problem; and

(d) the amount sanctioned by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. The erosion in banks of Ganga/Padma is a natural phenomenon being a meandering river. The intensity of erosion varies with location and also from year to year.

(b) Flood Management including river erosion being a State subject, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes, are within the purview of the State Govt.The Central Government renders assistance which are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

(c) In 1996, the Planning Commission had appointed an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri G. R. Keskar. the then Member, Central Water Commission to study bank erosion,peroblem in Ganga/ Padma river in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad in West Bengal. The committee had recommended various short-term and long-term measures. The Government of West Bengal had requested during 2001 to release Central Grant of Rs.139.5 crore for short-term schemes to be executed by Govt, of West Bengal.

(d) In this regard, the Planning Commission had already released an amount of Rs. 30.00 crore during the year 1998-99 to the Government of West Bengal as additional Central assistance for taking up of the above works. Thereafter in December, 1999, Government of India constituted a Central Team headed by Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission based on whose recommendations, a scheme for implementation of critical anti-erosion works in Ganga basin was formulated by Government of India wherein an amount of Rs. 30.00 crore has been provided for West Bengal and 17.50 crore for Farrakka Barrage Project for taking up anti-erosion works along the river Ganga-Padma. Against this scheme since January, 2001, an amount of Rs. 23.48 crore has been released to West Bengal and Rs. 4.00 crore to Farrakka Barrage Project for taking up the anti-erosion works. Release of remaining amount will depend upon the utilisation certificate to be given by the State Government. Further the above scheme for providing Central Assistance is also being continued during 10th Five Year Plan for which an Expert Committee has been constituted by Government of India which includes representative from West Bengal to identify the critical anti-erosion schemes and also look into the recommendations of earlier Committees including that of Keskar Committee.

Foreign aid for irrigation schemes of Uttaranchal

3382. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of irrigation schemes of Uttaranchal which have received or are likely to receive foreign aid;

(b) the scheme-wise foreign aid received during the period from its inception till date;

(c) the actual amount spent on irrigation schemes of the State during the said period; and

(d) the number of irrigation proposals pending alongwith its reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No proposal seeking external assistance for irrigation schemes has been received from the State Government of Uttaranchal since its inception in November, 2000.

(b) to (d) Do not arise,